

[5th March 1926]

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I know whether such questions as ‘ on what information did the Member put the question ’ can be asked? I am only raising the general point whether one hon. Member of this House can ask another hon. Member as to the source of the information for putting a question.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ May I submit in reply to the point of order raised that it is only in cases of serious allegations against an officer personally, any such undertaking is asked? I am asking information whether the hon. Member is aware of any person having gone there or whether it is a surmise that somebody must have gone there. I submit there is no point of order.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ I agree with the hon. Member Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar that I am not bound to answer the question asked by the hon. Member, the Raja of Ramnad. But I may say I have information that a number of Government servants visited the conference and that the particular officer whom I mentioned travelled in the special train which carried the Ministerialists to Amraoti and that he did attend one of those two conferences? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ May I know from the hon. Member whether he is definitely informed that the person referred to attended one of the two conferences? ”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Sir, the question is about the conduct of a Government servant. It is immaterial to me whether he attended one conference or two conferences.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May we have your ruling, Sir? We may be guided by your ruling whether such questions can be asked.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ If a question is asked about the bonafides of the questioner it is certainly out of order. If it is to elicit information I do not see what objection there is to it.”

Land Revenue.

Remission of valuation of trees on darkhast lands assigned to depressed classes.

* 1534 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that remission of tree valuation may be made while assigning to the members of the depressed classes such darkhast lands on which trees are grown;

(b) whether this concession is shown in the case of depressed classes alone or for others also;

(c) whether there is any Government Order making a remission of tree value on darkhast lands assigned to the depressed classes compulsory;

(d) if so, whether they will be pleased to lay a copy of the Government Order on the Council table; and

(e) why tree valuation is now being demanded by the Deputy Tahsildar of Denkanikota, Salem district, in his order Nos. L. Dis. 311 C. and D. of 1924 and L. Dis. 444/C. and D. of 1925 from one Adi-Dravida Mara, son of Mara, residing in Urigam village, Hosur taluk, Salem district?

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- A.—(a) Yes, in cases of poverty and subject to certain limits which vary according to sanctioning authority.
- (b) No distinction is made between depressed classes and others.
- (c) & (d) No. The remission is left to the discretion of the local revenue officers.
- (e) The Government are not aware of the facts of the case referred to.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to the answer to clause (a) ‘ in cases of poverty and subject to certain limits which vary according to sanctioning authority ’ may I know what are those limits ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ I am afraid I must ask for notice. A Tahsildar can sanction up to a certain sum, a Divisional Officer up to a certain higher sum. I do not know what exactly are the limits. Will the hon. Member put a fresh question ? ”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether the Government do not think it advisable to make general exemptions in the case of depressed classes, whenever the tree valuation does not exceed Rs. 50 or some such amount ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ No, Sir.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ Having regard to the general poverty of the depressed classes, will the Government be pleased to examine the question whether the rules can be modified that in the case of depressed classes (Mr. R. Veerian : Hear, hear) the tree valuation need not be collected until they are in a position to pay the valuation ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ I have no objection to have that question examined if it has not been examined already.”

Assignment of lands to Adi-Dravidas of Nadupatti village.

* 1535 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that about seventy Adi-Dravida families in the village of Nadupatti, Omalur taluk, Salem district, are without any land of their own for cultivation ;

(b) whether any steps were taken on the petition submitted by them during the month of January 1925 to the District Collector, Salem, praying for assignments of lands which adjoin the reserve forest in their village on darkhast ; and

(c) why the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Routine No. 1187, Press, dated 5th March 1925, regarding the matter of publication in villages of lists of lands available for assignment to the members of the depressed classes were not given practical effect to in this village ?

A.—(a) & (b) A letter on the subject received from the hon. Member was forwarded to the Collector of Salem and the hon. Member informed accordingly.

(c) The Government are not aware that the Board's instructions have not been carried out.